

## SPORTS SHORTS

### Baseball

## Aces hit rough patch, fall to Bethesda Big Train

After an audacious start to the season, the Alexandria Aces have fallen on hard times in recent days.

Alexandria's Cal Ripken league affiliate has gone 2-4 since June 18. The precious few bright spots came in a 14-7 win against the Takoma T-Bolts on June 21 and a gritty 4-3 victory over the Southern Maryland Nationals on Sunday.

But losses to the Youse's Orioles, Rockville Express, Baltimore Redbirds and Bethes-

da Big Train bumped the team's record down to .500. If there's a silver lining, it's the Aces' strong showing against Big Train, a perennial powerhouse in the wooden-bat league.

The Aces held the offensive juggernaut to just four runs and, for the second time this year, nipped at the rival squad's heels throughout the game. They fell 4-3 on Monday as compared to their 7-6 loss in mid-June.

Pitcher Steven Schuler was

charged with the loss. Outfielder Anthony Papio and infielders Andrew Koscelansky and Keith Picconi scored the team's three runs.

Despite a 9-9 record, the Aces remain firmly in the upper half of league standings — fourth behind the Vienna River Dogs. Alexandria had an off day Tuesday but took the field Wednesday — after the Times' deadline — against the D.C. Grays. They play the Redbirds at home tonight.

## Officials celebrate construction of Miracle Baseball Field

Mayor Bill Euille was on hand to break ground at the city's new Miracle Baseball Field at Old Town's Lee Center on Saturday.

Euille joined officials with the city's parks and recreation department as well as representatives from the Miracle Baseball League of Alexandria during the ceremony. About \$135,000 of the \$420,000 project has been raised, including a \$40,000 gift from The Kelley Cares Foundation.

Construction of the rubberized field is scheduled to begin next month and finish by September. The Miracle Baseball League is designed to give children and young adults with mental or physical disabilities an opportunity to play the national pastime.



COURTESY PHOTO

At left, Bill Rivers, chairman of the Miracle Baseball League of Alexandria and Mac Slover, the city's recreation and parks department's director of sports, congratulate each other after a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Miracle Baseball Field on Saturday.

### Lacrosse

## Sister act heads to Brine National Lacrosse Classic

Olivia and Amelia Cole of Alexandria will represent the Washington metropolitan region in the 2012 Brine National Lacrosse Classic next week.

The sisters share more than just family ties and the honor of playing for their hometown; they also share a position. Olivia, a junior at

Bishop Ireton, minds the net for the Cardinals when she's not playing for the Capitol Girls Lacrosse program.

Amelia, an eighth-grader at Francis Hammond, plays goalie for Stars Lacrosse. She earned a spot on the regional middle school division team while her older sister will

compete against high school students. Both will square off against athletes from across the country.

The classic begins Saturday at the Maryland Soccerplex in Boyds, Md., and continues through Tuesday.

- Derrick Perkins



*Alexandria Aces*  
Collegiate Summer Baseball  
**Where Legends Begin**

**COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR  
ALEXANDRIA ACES**



**NEXT 4 HOME GAMES:**

**Thursday, June 28th vs  
Baltimore Redbirds - 7 PM -  
Sponsored by The Alexandria  
Times - City Employee Night**  
Tickets for all City Employees with ID just \$3

*Alexandria Times*

**Saturday, June 30th vs DC  
Grays - 7 PM - Sponsored by  
Union Street Public House -  
Youth Baseball Night**

All kids in their baseball uniforms get  
free admission



**Monday, July 2nd vs. Rockville Express -  
7 PM**  
**Thursday, July 5th vs Youse's Orioles -  
7 PM**

Aces home games are played at Frank  
Mann Field at Four Mile Run Park,  
located at 3700 Commonwealth  
Avenue in Alexandria, behind Cora  
Kelly School

**Eat dinner at the Ballpark!**  
Stop by the Union Street Public House  
Concession Area at each game for  
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Italian  
Sausages, Chips, Drinks, and much  
more!

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